ENGL 613 - READINGS IN EARLY MODERN LITERATURE
Dr. Kevin O’Sullivan
Tuesday & Thursday 11:10-12:25pm
LAAH 504

Fulfills the distribution requirement for a course in any literature, pre-1800.

This course is designed to offer students a wide-ranging survey of English literature written during the early modern period (which for our purposes will be conceived as beginning with the reign of Henry VII in 1485 and extending through the end of the Interregnum in 1660), with a particular focus on the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Throughout the semester, students will read broadly from authors working in three major literary forms—poetry, drama, and prose—and interrogate how these reflect the period of immense social, religious, and political upheaval during which they were composed. Together, we will seek to understand the relationship between these works and the wider culture of textual transmission in which they participated as well as the place of literature in an increasingly varied landscape of intellectual production. Among the authors we will likely encounter are Sir Thomas Wyatt; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Sir Philip Sidney; Edmund Spenser; Anne Locke; Anne Askew; George Gascoigne; Thomas Nashe; Thomas Kyd; Christopher Marlowe; William Shakespeare; Ben Jonson; Elizabeth Cary, Lady Falkland; John Webster; Lady Mary Wroth; Amelia Lanyer; John Donne; and John Milton.